



<b>Policy Memo</b>	
<b>KDHE-DHCF POLICY NO: PLMC 2021-04</b>	<b>From: Erin Kelley, Senior Manager</b>
<b>Date: February 17, 2021</b>	<b>KEESM/KFMAM Reference:</b>
<b>RE: Implementation of Federal Poverty Levels</b>	<b>Program(s): All Medical Programs</b>

This memo provides instructions for implementation of new federal poverty level standards. The new levels take effect April 1, 2021.

## **I. FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL CHANGES**

This change provides new income standards for CHIP, Caretaker Medical, Medicaid Pregnant Women and Children, the Medicare Savings Programs, and Working Healthy. It also impacts Presumptive Eligibility determinations for Pregnant Women, Children and Caretakers. The Kansas Medical Assistance Standards (Appendix Item F-8 on the KDHE Eligibility Policy website) has been updated with the new standards. The updated form is included with this memo.

### **A. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UPDATES**

The poverty level standards have been updated in the KEES system and are effective for any determinations for the benefit month of April 2021 or later. There will not be an exclusive automated KEES mass change to implement these changes. For ongoing cases, the new level will be considered the next time eligibility is redetermined. This is accomplished when EDBC is executed, accepted and saved for the specific benefit month. The new levels will be loaded into KEES over the weekend of February 13, 2021. However, because the new levels are not effective until April 2021, the values and calculations will not be available for worker executed EDBC until February 17, 2021, when the month of April 2021 is available. However, the values are available for system executed EDBC occurring on or after this date.

## **B. SPECIAL PROCESSES**

Although no automatic updates were processed in the KEES system to implement the FPL change, other processes, such as the batch review process, will use the new FPL levels upon execution.

### **1. NEW APPLICATIONS**

New requests for coverage that fail eligibility due to excess income in a month prior to April will require a second determination for the month of April if the initial determination placed the applicant within 5% percentage points of the applicable poverty level. The results of both determinations shall be documented in the journal. Please note that an EDBC for April may be required even though the EDBC for March was high dated.

Applications that may be processed as a renewal shall be completed using the new values. Special instructions are not necessary, while keeping in mind current COVID-19 policies are applicable.

## **C. PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY**

The new income levels are also implemented for Presumptive Eligibility determinations. Income limits in the PE tool are adjusted beginning April 1, 2021. The new levels will be used for any determination on or after this date. The information is being shared with the PE Qualified Entities, but no additional action is necessary to implement the changes.

## **D. SELF-SERVICE PORTAL ELIGIBILITY CHECK**

The high-level eligibility check feature available to the public will also be updated with the new income levels. The updates to the SSP will also be available to any screening executed on or after April 1, 2021. Consumers using the self-check feature prior to April 1 will be presented a result using the old values.

## **II. FORMS AND FACT SHEETS**

### **Forms:**

ES-3104.5	<a href="#">Determination of Need (Medical Assistance)</a>
ES-3165	<a href="#">Working Healthy Premiums</a>
ES-3165S	<a href="#">Working Healthy Premiums - Spanish</a>
F-8	<a href="#">KS Medical Standard</a>

## **Brochures:**

KC-2110 Helpful Hints for Families and KC-2110S Spanish version  
KC-2700 Medicare Savings Programs and KC-2700S Spanish version

## **Fact Sheets:**

Medical Coverage for Children  
Medical Coverage for Parents or Caregivers of Children  
Medical Coverage for Pregnant Women  
Overview of Programs for Elderly and Persons with Disabilities

## **III. QUESTIONS**

For questions or concerns related to this document, please contact one of the KDHE Medical Policy Staff listed below.

Erin Kelley, Senior Manager- [Erin.Kelley@ks.gov](mailto:Erin.Kelley@ks.gov)

Jessica Pearson, Elderly and Disabled Program Manager – [Jessica.Pearson@ks.gov](mailto:Jessica.Pearson@ks.gov)

Vacant, Elderly and Disabled Program Manager

Jerri Camargo, Family Medical Program Manager - [Jerri.Camargo@ks.gov](mailto:Jerri.Camargo@ks.gov)

Amanda Corneliusen, Family Medical Program Manager – [Amanda.Corneliusen@ks.gov](mailto:Amanda.Corneliusen@ks.gov)

Questions regarding any KEES issues are directed to the KEES Help Desk at [KEES.HelpDesk@ks.gov](mailto:KEES.HelpDesk@ks.gov)